

REMARKS

Claims 1-49 are pending; claims 19-39 are withdrawn; claims 1-13, 18 and 41-49 are rejected; and claims 14-17 are objected to in this application. Claims 1, 15 and 18 are amended; and claims 10-14, 19-49 are cancelled hereby.

Responsive to the provisional rejection of claims 41, 42, 48 and 49 Applicants have cancelled claims 41, 42, 48 and 49.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1-4, 8, 9, 41-44, 48 and 49 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,712,940 (Crook), Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the elements of claim 14 and all intervening claims, to thereby place claim 1, and claims 2-4, 8 and 9 in condition in for allowance. Further, Applicants have cancelled claims 41-44, 48 and 49. For the forgoing reasons, Applicants submit that claims 1-4, 8 and 9 are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1, 2, 8, 41, 42 and 48 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,399,111 (Beaumont et al.), Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the elements of claim 14 and all intervening claims, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable if placed in independent form to thereby place claim 1 in condition for allowance. Further, Applicants have cancelled claims 41, 42 and 48. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1, and claims 2 and 8 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1-4 and 41-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,716,318 (Watanabe), Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the elements of claim 14 and all intervening claims, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable upon placing in independent form. Further, Applicants have cancelled claims

41-44. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1, and claims 2-4 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1-9 and 41-49 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,436,240 (Jeffrey), Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the elements of claim 14 and all intervening claims, thereby placing claim 1 in condition for allowance. Further, Applicants have cancelled claims 41-49. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1, and claims 2-9 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1, 8, 10-13, 18, 41 and 48 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,616,812 (Beck), Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the elements of claim 14 and all intervening claims, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable upon placing in independent form, and Applicants have amended claim 18 to depend from claim 1. Further, Applicants have cancelled claims 10-13, 41 and 48. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1, and claims 8 and 18 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 14-17 would be allowable upon placing in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. To that end, Applicants have amended claim 1, placing the elements of claim 14 therein and cancelled claim 14 thereby placing claims 15-17 in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested. Applicants amending and canceling of claims does thereby place the application in condition for issuing as a patent in due course.

The Examiner has not addressed claim 40, however this claim is cancelled as well. This cancellation is in concert with the Response to Restriction Requirement wherein Applicants elected claims 1-18 and 41-49, which was filed on July 6, 2006.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that no combination of the cited references teach, disclose or suggest the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby conditionally petition therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,

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